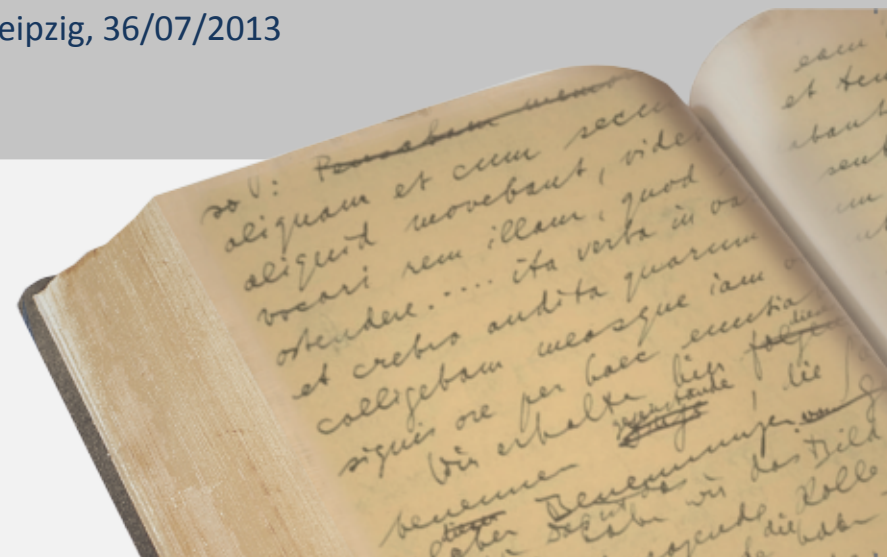


Humanities, Libraries and Computer Science : How to Manage the Synergies and Antagonisms

Prof. Dr. Stefan Gradmann (KU Leuven)

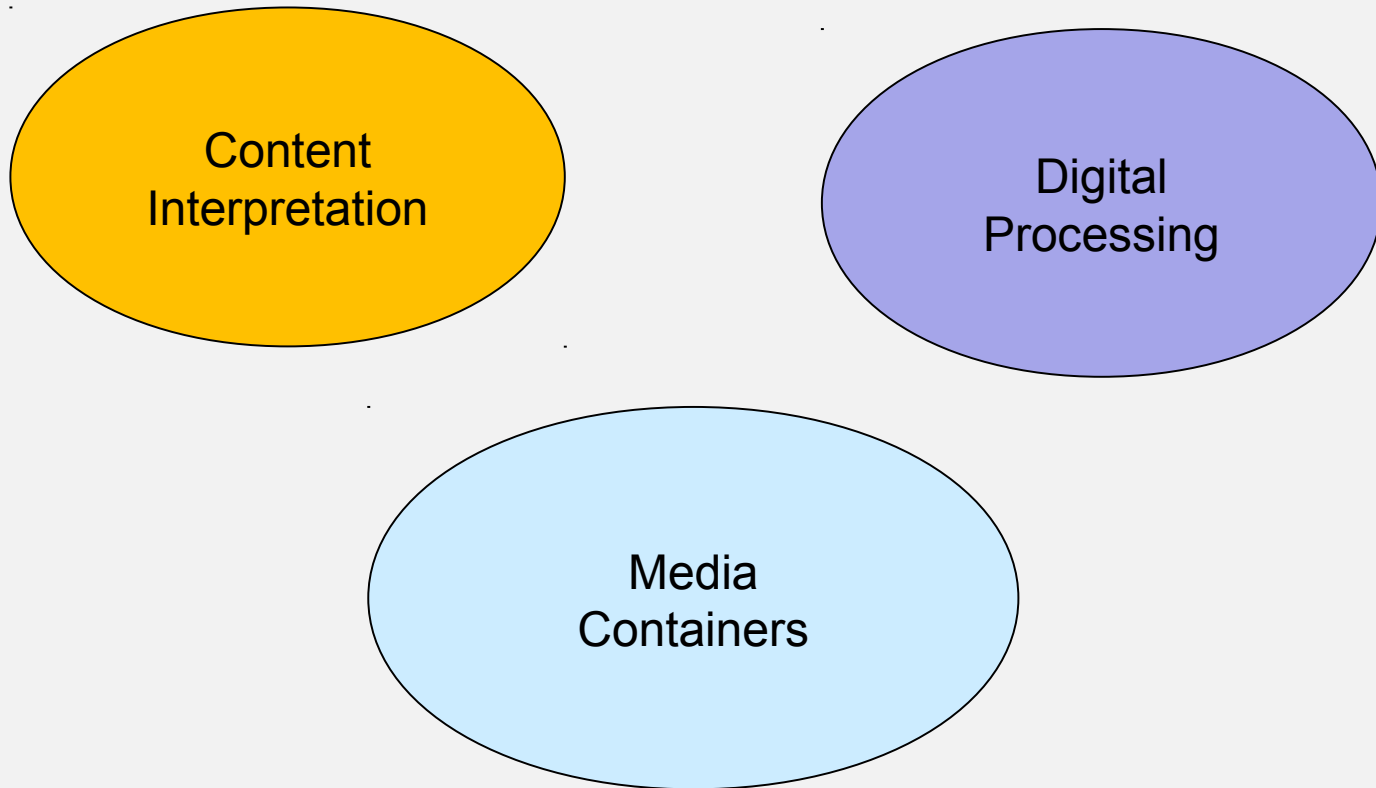
Culture & Technology, Leipzig, 36/07/2013



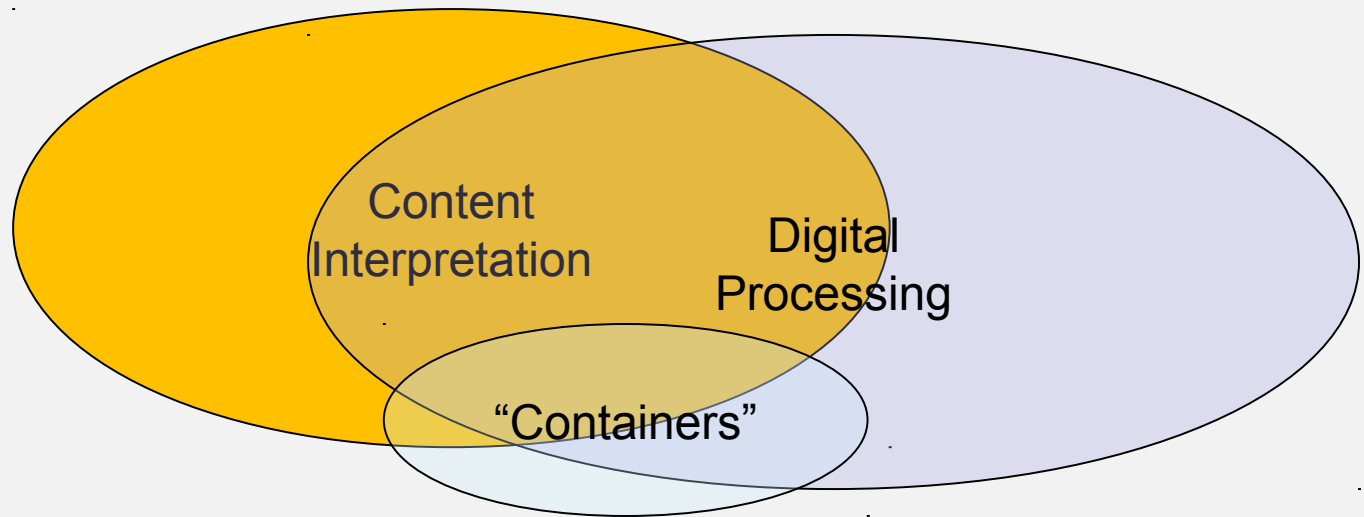
- Antagonisms
- Synergies
- Management (?)
- ... and a few words on strategy!

- Libraries are focused on information containers ...
 - ... and disregard content as well as processing methods
- Humanities are focused on content ...
 - ... and disregard containers as well as processing methods
- Computer Scientists are focused on digital processing methods ...
 - ... and disregard containers and content

Past Antagonisms



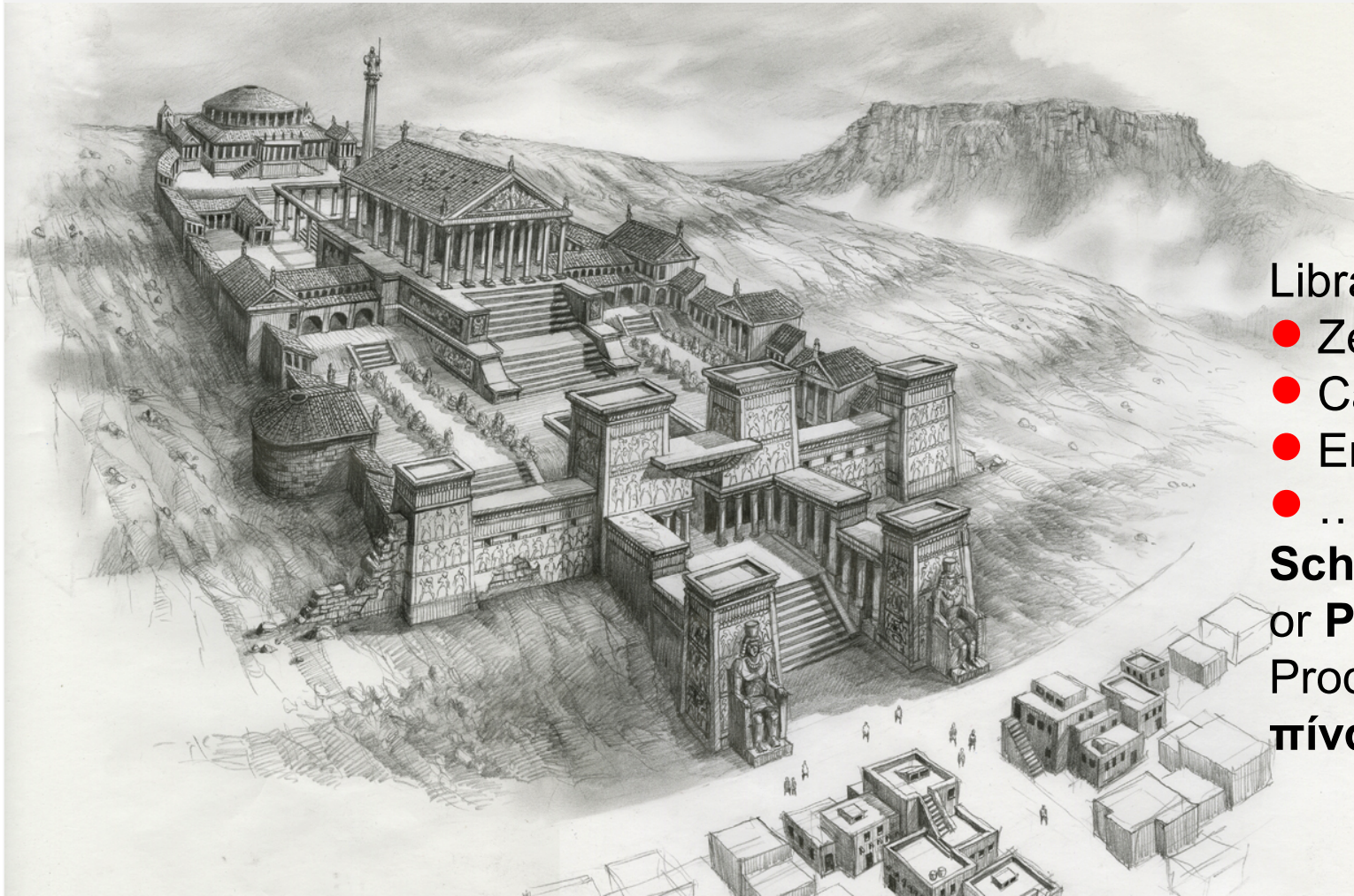
Antagonisms/Synergies



- Libraries could reposition themselves as **experts in a new auxiliary science**: linked data & 'semantic' processing and contextualisation
- Computer Science might be enabled to step **beyond their current semiological innocence**
- Humanists might develop some **terminological discipline** in formalizing low levels of discursive interaction and argument

- Declare the antagonisms to be complementarities.
 - Does that work?
 - Are we cooperating? Are we competing??
- Encourage darwinistic behaviour
 - Who will remain in place in the end?

Libraries ... once upon a time



Librarians:

- Zenodotus
- Callimachus
- Erathosthenes
- ...

Scholars and /
or **Poets**
Producing
πίνακες

- Geoffrey Boulton (geologist) in this year's LIBER-Conference:
 - "Libraries do the wrong things, employ the wrong people"
 - "I do not use libraries anymore"
 - "The library shouldn't be an entity anymore, it should be a function"
 - "Customer's needs: many of these are addressed by Google"
- => Libraries have made a dangerous choice in reducing their identity to service provision
- Service providers can quickly be substituted
 - Provided their services are generic and a stronger contender enters the stage
 - Or simply once these services become obsolete
- Position the library on a par with DH research! Otherwise the CS guys will take it all!